APPENDIX

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REPORT ON THE SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON ARCHIVES
Moscow, U.S.S.R., August 21-25, 1972

More than 1,000 participants from 66 countries attended the 7th International Congress on Archives in Moscow, August 21-25. Over 50 representatives from the United States attended, including James B. Rhoads, Archivist of the United States, and Charles E. Lee, President of the Society of American Archivists. Library of Congress representatives were Mrs. Elizabeth E. Hamer, Assistant Librarian of Congress, and John C. Broderick, Assistant Chief of the Manuscript Division. Mr. Broderick was a panelist at the section meeting on "Archives of Literature and Art."

The Congress included four plenary sessions, three section meetings, ceremonial opening and closing sessions, a general assembly, a round table on archives, and various meetings of committees and commissions of the International Council on Archives. All meetings were held in the Trade Union House, most of them in the spectacular Hall of Columns.

The plenary sessions, held on successive mornings, dealt with basic archival topics of wide interest and applicability. The topics and the principal speakers were: August 22, "The Relations between Government Archives and Administrative Archives," F. I. Dolgih, Director General of the Main Archives Administration of the Council of Ministers, U.S.S.R.; August 23, "New Techniques in Archives," Dr. Rhoads; August 24, "Finding Aids of the Archives at the Service of Science," Franjo Biljan, Director of the Archives of Yugoslavia; August 25, "Archives of Developing Countries," J.R. Ede, Keeper of Public Records, United Kingdom, and S. N. Prasad, Director of the National Archives, India.

The speakers summarized and augmented their published reports, which had been distributed to participants in advance of the meetings. The reports were based upon detailed questionnaires circulated in 1971. Following the speakers' statements, five to seven panelists read prepared papers on the topics, after which the floor was opened to statements by other participants.

The plenary sessions disclosed wide variance in the sophistication of archival practices, a difference of opinion between developing and developed countries over the disposition of archives documenting a colonial period, concern with problems of mass and volume, and interest in new technological means in their solution. They also revealed widespread adoption or consideration of records centers, such as those in the United States, to ease the transition from administrative records to permanent archives. Of less but real concern was the relationship between the archives and historians and other users of archival records.

The three section meetings focused on special documentary materials not always regarded as suitable for inclusion in archival repositories and more often found in libraries and museums. The meetings followed the pattern of the plenary sessions described above. The topics and speakers were: August 23, "Archives of Literature and Art," Mrs. N. B. Volkova, Director of the Central State Archives of Literature and Art, U.S.S.R.; August 23, "Architectural Records," Michel Le Moël, Curator of Maps and Plans, Archives Nationales, France; August 24, "Films and Photographs Archives," W. Kohte, Director of the Federal Archive of Motion Pictures, Photographic Records and Sound Recordings, West Germany.

In all three section meetings there were differences of opinion concerning the custodial responsibility of Archival institutions toward such special documentary materials. Some spokesmen favored centralization of all documentation in state archives. Others favored leaving the chief responsibility for preserving such material to libraries and museums.

In addition to formal sessions, participants had access to tours of archives, libraries, and historical and cultural attractions in Moscow. These included the Kremlin and its splendors, especially in the Armoury Museum; the Lenin State Library; the Tretyakov Art Gallery; and the Central state archives of Ancient Acts, the October Revolution, and Literature and Art.

New officers of the International Council on Archives are Mr. Dolgih, President; Guy Duboscq, Director General of the Archives of France, and Dr. Rhoads, Vice Presidents; and O. J. F. Gauye, Deputy Archivist of Switzerland, Treasurer. Officers continuing in office are G. Antonelli, Italian State Archives, Secretary-General; Morris Rieger, National Archives

(U.S.A.), Deputy Secretary-General; and Charles Kecskemeti of France, Executive Secretary.

The 8th International Congress on Archives is planned for Washington, D.C. in 1976.